



DORMINGTON AND MORDIFORD GROUP GROUP PARISH COUNCIL

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MINUTES

**Annual Meeting of the Parish on
Wednesday 21st May 2025 at 7.00 pm at Mordiford School.**

Due to being a Group Parish Council, both Parishes have their own Annual Parish Meeting agendas, but they are identical and run concurrently.

**The Annual Parish Meeting for Dormington was opened at 7pm.
The Annual Parish Meeting for Mordiford was opened at 7pm.**

- **Welcome and Introductions**

It was **NOTED** that there were no members of the public present.

It was **NOTED** all Parish Councillors were present with Cllr Billig arriving at 19:15. The Ward Councillor, Cllr Biggs and the Headteacher at Mordiford Primary School were also present.

- **To approve as correct the minutes of the meeting held on the 23rd May 2024**
It was **RESOLVED** to approve and sign the minutes of last years Annual Parish Meeting held on the 23rd May 2024.

- **Parish Council Report by the Chair, outlining Parish Council activities and achievements for the year 2024/2025.**

Due to there being no members of the Public present, this item was removed from the agenda.

- **Parish Council brief Financial Report by the Clerk/RFO, noting that figures are provisional and still subject to audit for year 2024/2025**

Due to there being no members of the Public present, this item was also removed from the agenda.

- **Presentation/reports from:**
 - **The Ward Cllr**

The Ward Cllr gave a quick recap of Herefordshire Councils (HC) plans for the coming year.

- 212m income (including Council Tax, £43m Business rates plus various grants).
- Outgoings
 - £136m on statutory services (Adult and Children).

- £38m on Economy & the Environment.
- £38m on Corporate.
- £38m - libraries, waste, elections, energy, environmental, highways, planning and trading standards.
- £2m for the Economic Team.
- Strategic Housing
 - Large scale Housing elements.
 - Affordable Housing (Not enough in towns or villages).
 - Emergency Housing (fallen behind).
- Merton Meadow – planning application in and work should begin in September.
- Master plan – transport, rail and buses - multi storey at bus station
- HC now has a Development Company to develop affordable housing quicker
- Business Hub for business development
- Skills board – All the Colleges are on the board. The Skills Board are working with the Business Hub to harmonise skill requirements for jobs and careers in the county. There will be a collaboration event in Sept with the Skills Board, the Business Board and 90 businesses.
- Investments – A new Investment manager has been appointed.
- City vision – Pressure will be put on schools & colleges once 27000 homes built. All the city colleges will need to expand. HC owns properties on Venns Lane that could be used to expand the colleges on Folly Lane.
- Civic square
 - St Peter's Square – Bus shelters (to be moved), new Library going into Shire Hall, Town Hall (needs investment), and St Peters Church (which is a venue that can hold 220 people for events).
 - High town – investment needed to develop market area to make it more welcoming, project to get empty space above shops used for housing.
 - Broad Street – develop Indie Food scene, Museum and the Cathedral. Maylords needs redevelopment. Parking Strategy will also be reviewed.
- Rotherwas Enterprise Zone – HC gets 50% of business rates and the other 50% goes to the Government. An enterprise zone gets to keep the other 50%. This money would go towards the Business Hub in Leominster , Ross and Ledbury.
- Cyber Businesses in the county, encouraged to develop the sector and grow their businesses.
- NMITE (New Model Institute for Technology and Engineering) had their first graduations. HC to put together 4 bursaries to encourage local young people to study degrees in Engineering in the County
- Model farm – off the A40. £8m development – housing, GPs, dentists, school etc.
- HC Local Plan – This couldn't continue with the Governments plan to increase housing so a new Local Plan will be developed. NDP advice is to not to start a new one, current NDPs will still have weight but with housing numbers, appeals will increase and council could be more likely to approve.
- Mordiford Bridge – Cllr Biggs can act on the PC's behalf as Ward Cllr. Cllr Durkin (Cabinet Member for Highways) is working with Ed

Bradford to push change through. Vegetation on bridge needs cutting. Cllr Biggs to bring up at Hampton Bishop PC meeting.

- Question from the Headteacher to Cllr Biggs – The village hall development including new classrooms at the school, has no funds to move forward. Are there any pots of money in HC available for projects like these? Cllr Biggs responded saying all rural councils were suffering receiving less funding from the Government. HC are down by £3m. There are grants available from the UKSPF (UK Shared Prosperity Fund). Cllr Biggs to get Growth Hub to make contact with the Headteacher to discuss.

- **Footpaths Officer** - This item was removed from the agenda.
- **Head of Mordiford Primary School**

The head thanked the PC and community for help with the trees and hedging around the field and it is hoped this will help to remove some of the water from the field in the wetter months. The path is well used and looks good and the sand pit is also really well used and loved by the children.

Changes at the Nursery (Dragons) – The manager of the Nursery is leaving so it's a good time for the School to look at taking the Nursery under it's wing. The Government now provides funding for Schools who use space for nursery places and with the Dragons currently being independent means it wouldn't be able to get funding.

The plan is to have Reception year and Nursery in the same building. The portacabin needs refurbishment and then the Dragons current building would also need a refurb to turn it into a classroom for the School. There is £56k left over from carpark S106 money. The School is hoping this is enough money for the refurbishments.

As the work would use S106 money, Herefordshire Council would get quotes in for the work, but the School have been advised to get their own quotes to ensure value for money. Cllr Biggs offered to find out where the project is in the process.

The project to build a Village Hall and classrooms has slightly changed in that the school needs to concentrate on the classrooms as it does not see where the money would come from to pay for the hall.

The School is looking to put up signage to encourage local people to use the carpark at weekends and wondered if this was something the PC could fund. Clerk to add the request to the Parish Council meeting agenda for June.

- Submissions/questions/proposals from Parishioners.

It was **NOTED** that there were no submissions.

Both the Dormington and the Mordiford Parish Meetings Closed at 19:50.